

REMARKS

In response to the outstanding action, Applicants have amended claims 56 and 61 without prejudice to focus on one aspect of the invention. No new matter has been added.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 56-64 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as allegedly not enabling for an antibody that binds to a polypeptide having 80% identity with either SEQ ID NO:2 or 5. Applicants respectfully traverse this ground for rejection.

It is respectfully submitted that Applicants disclosure encompasses antibodies that cross-react with related polypeptides. Nevertheless, Applicants have amended the claims to focus on one aspect of the instant invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this ground of rejection has been overcome with the deletion of the 80% identity language and this request withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

Claims 56-64 and 61-64 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103, respectively as allegedly not novel or obvious over various references. Applicants respectfully traverse this ground for rejection.

While Applicants disagree with the assessment of the Action, nevertheless and solely in order to facilitate allowance, without acquiescence, Applicants have amended the claims to focus on one aspect of the invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these grounds for rejection be withdrawn.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Application No. 09/989,903
Reply to Office Action dated March 3, 2003

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable.
Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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